Re: Collier

From [redacted]

To collierexposed@protonmail.com

Date Tuesday, 4 July 2023 [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] I worked [redacted] during the Greenwich by-election. I got on well with Dierdre, but haven't spoken to her for a long time. She will by now be about 80 years old. She was vulnerable, politically as an ally of John McDonnell on the GLC, and personally.

There were three nasty incidents involving the News of the World during that campaign.

The press were waiting outside when the Greenwich party was selecting a candidate, having already marked Dierdre as 'hard left'. As the selection meeting ended, she had to conduct a press briefing unprepared. She was asked her age - originally an innocent question, but when it was obvious that she didn't want to answer, she was pressed repeatedly, and reluctantly described herself as 'forty-ish'. The NoW dug out her birth certificate - she was 44 - and ran a photo of it the following week under the heading "Dierdre's big fat lie'. [redacted]

The second incident was when her children were doorstepped by someone from the NoW.

[redacted]

On the Saturday before polling day in Greenwich, 21 February, I took a call from Stuart Collier telling me that he had spoken to Dierdre's father, and wished to talk to her. My recollection that her father had complained that she did not want to know him. Certainly, Collier intended to run a story showing Dierdre up in a bad light.

When I spoke to Dierdre, she became extremely upset and tearful, and told me about her father's alcoholism and related problems.

[redacted] I rang Collier and gave him a time when he could see Dierdre [redacted]. I told him that she was upset [redacted] but he didn't think that mattered.

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Vincent Hanna, from Newsnight, who came with his cameraman. One of the hacks who turned up was Alastair Campbell, from the Sunday Mirror.

So, the moment Collier turned up, he discovered that there was a camera pointing at him, and a group of journoes staring at him, and that it was an ambush, so he turned and ran, with a squad of journoes and Hanna's cameraman in pursuit. He shut himself in the nearest phone box to ring his news desk.

After that, the hacks all came back, and Dierdre gave a press conference about her childhood, with Dobson chairing it. [redacted] there were no more attacks on Dierdre, except in The Sun. The man from the Daily Mail who was covering the election [redacted] stuck his neck by suggesting to head office that they should not just leave off taunting Dierdre but should run an editorial condemning the NoW's behaviour. David Montgomery, Editor of the NoW, ran a whinging editorial the following Sunday defending the paper.

[redacted] I never had any dealings with Collier again. I can't remember the camera man's name. What I do recall is that he had filmed the Vietnam wa[redacted].

[redacted]

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It is crucial that we discuss the Deirdre Wood case [redacted]. I have a few important questions regarding this matter that I would like to discuss with you.

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